

Wednesday, December 20, 2000

Duxbury Clipper

Habitat Efforts Make For a Merry Christmas for Duxbury Family

A Duxbury family selected by South Shore Habitat for Humanity won't be home for Christmas but they can count on volunteers to get them there soon.

Trudy Martel and her three children will become the organization's 29th family partner and if plans go smoothly, will be living in a new home on Tremont Street by next fall. Recently, they were selected for ownership of South Shore Habitat's first ever home built in Duxbury.

John Seavey, a member of the South Shore Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors said the Martels were chosen from among 14 qualified applicants. A single mother of three, the children attend Duxbury schools, faces eviction with no affordable alternative, he said. "We think all Habitat families are very special. This is no exception - a wonderful family, who have been in town for over 13 years."

Last March at Annual Town Meeting, Duxbury voted

unanimously to donate a piece of town owned land on Tremont Street to South Shore Habitat, and last week the foundation was poured for the single family three-bedroom home described as a "cross between a ranch and a Cape".

Volunteer construction on the home begins Saturday, January 6 and takes place every Saturday until completion. No experience is necessary to volunteer and anyone who is

continued on page 17

Habitat Efforts Make For a Merry Christmas for Family

continued from page one

interested should call Diane Alongi at 781-934-6581.

Seavey, who is chairman of the family selection committee, said that South Shore Habitat uses a comprehensive evaluation process to select a family based on need, income and willingness to partner with Habitat. As a down payment on the home, the selected family works 500 "sweat equity" hours alongside volunteers from South Shore Habitat. Even the kids can pitch in doing such things as stuffing envelopes or even getting good grades toward equity.

Corporations and organizations underwrite construction costs of the project. The family

then purchases the home from South Shore Habitat through a long term, no-interest mortgage. South Shore Habitat recycles the mortgage payments through a Fund for Humanity which aids in the construction of additional homes.

Duxbury's Habitat committee has been meeting for two years. The local group, headed by Ken Meyers, raised \$70,000 through community efforts toward the home construction.

In January, the local Habitat volunteers and the family will gather for a "wall raising ceremony" to officially kick off the construction effort.

"Each volunteer traditionally signs a stud or special part of the house he or she worked on," Seavey said.



Verizon recently donated \$2,500 to Duxbury Habitat for Humanity at the Duxbury home site. Pictured, l to r: Habitat volunteer, Chris Noble; Bob Noble of West Street and Verizon representative; Barbara Velsch of Saltmeadow Lane, fundraising co-chair; Cheryl Fogg of Pinewood Lane, fundraiser. Anyone interested in donating money or materials for the house can call Eileen Dillon at 934-7540 or Barbara Vetsch at 934-5727.